

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/093185 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H01L 23/00**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/010861

(22) International Filing Date: 9 April 2004 (09.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/461,776 9 April 2003 (09.04.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), Euro-
pean (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,
GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

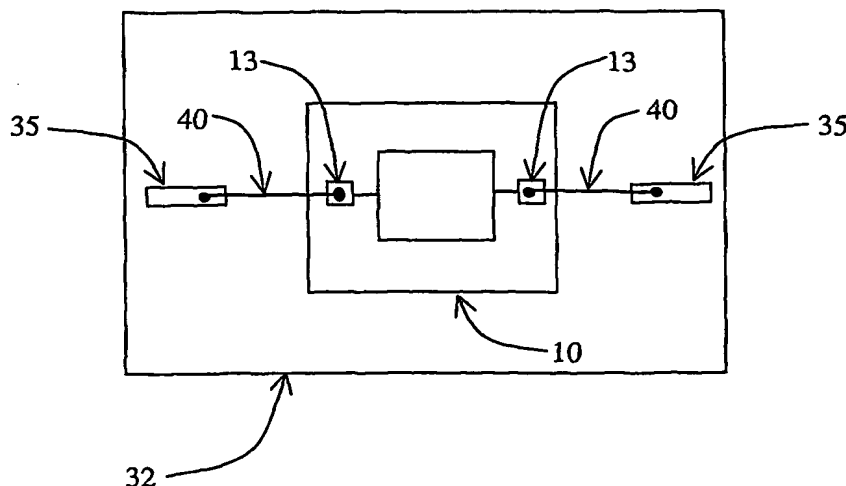
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: INTERCONNECT APPARATUS AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: Disclosed are interconnect structures and methods which utilize a bonding surface comprising copper nitride. The interconnect structures include a bonding surface comprising copper nitride which is effective at preventing oxidation and/or other unwanted corrosion of the underlying conductive material while providing the basis for a high conductivity bond. The copper nitride bonding surface provides a relatively non-conductive, corrosion-resistant bonding surface while at the same time being readily transformed into a conductive layer at or just prior to the time of bonding.